Miss AMERICA

CHAPTER 10

"FINAL RECKONING"

THE STORY THUS FAR...

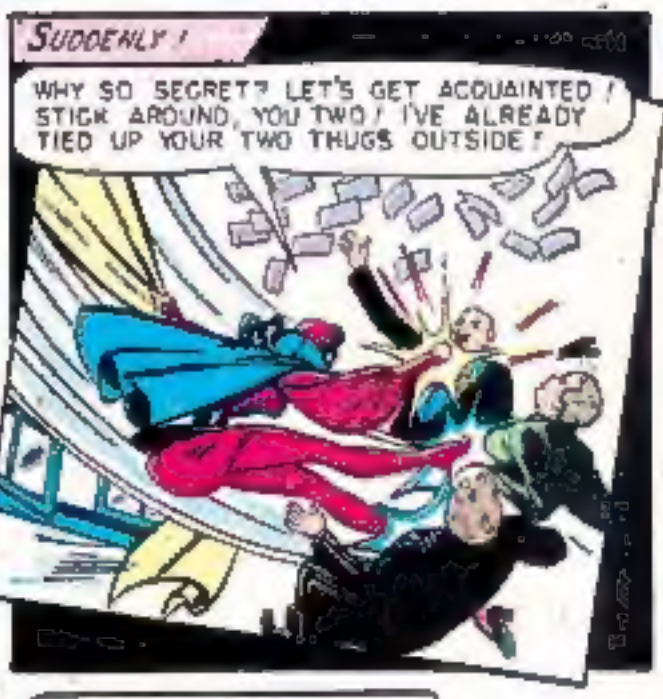
THE UNSCRUPULOUS MRS. VARNHAM, THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHERE THE CATASTROPHIC SUN-RAY CONDENSER WEAPON IS, HAS ESCAPED! NOW, AS **MISS AMERICA** FREES PETER CARR, REALLY THE FORMER BELGIAN UNDERGROUND LEADER, LOUIS REMIENS, FROM HIS BONDS, SHE LEARNS SOMETHING STARTLING! THAT THE RUTHLESS ADVENTURERS MR. AND MRS. ILES, WHO TIED PETER UP, ALSO KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE MIGHTY WEAPON FORMULA! IN FACT, THAT THEY HAVE GONE AFTER IT!!

THANKS FOR MY FREEDOM!
FROM WHAT YOU TELL ME, YOU DESERVE IT, LOUIS REMIENS! BUT I MUST GET THAT MICROFILM! HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHERE THE ILES' WENT?
NO! ALL I KNOW IS THEY WERE WATCHING THE WOMAN IN 405. THEY FOUND OUT SHE WAS MRS. VARNHAM THROUGH INITIALS ON HER PENCIL AND HEARD HER SAY SOMETHING ABOUT HIDING THE MICROFILM!
YES! SHE SAID "IT'S IN A SAFE PLACE," AND I'VE OVERLOOKED THE OBVIOUS! A BANK DEPOSIT BOX! BUT NO, THE BANKS HAVE CLOSED FOR THE DAY!
ALL BUT THE NACIONALIO!
I SAW AN AD ABOUT ITS SPECIAL SERVICE OF DAY AND NIGHT BOX RENTALS—! HEY!
SOUNDS LIKE IT! I'LL GET THERE FAST!
MEANWHILE, AT THE NACIONALIO!
ODD! I CAN'T FIND THE KEY TO THE BOX! I MUST OPEN IT AT ONCE! GUARD, GET ME A DUPLICATE KEY IMMEDIATELY, PLEASE!
NOT WITHOUT PROOF OF YOUR IDENTITY, SIGNORA.
A SLIGHT DELAY, AND---
SI, SIGNORA, THE SIGNATURE JUST WRITTEN CHECKS WITH THE ONE IN OUR FILES. GUARD, A DUPLICATE KEY FOR THE SIGNORA!
HURRY, PLEASE!
SI, SIGNOR!
2

IT'S EMPTY! I'VE BEEN ROBBED!
...YES, WHEN I WAS TALKING TO ELISE, THAT SOUND WE HEARD! NOW I KNOW! IT WAS THE WINDOW! SOMEONE CLIMBED FROM THE LEDGE INTO THE BEDROOM! MY PURSE WAS THERE! BUT WHO?
242
252
243
253
25
SOMEONE STOLE MY KEY AND ROBBED MY # DEPOSIT BOX! DO YOU REMEMBER A WOMAN, SOMEONE, GOING TO BOX 244 BEFORE THIS? I MUST RECOVER MY LOST PROPERTY!
YOU WON'T DO THE RECOVERING, FOR I'M RETIRING YOU!
NO! NO! STAY AWAY FROM ME, MISS AMERICA!
I SAW THAT MOVE COMING! SHE WON'T GET AWAY!
AN INSTANT RECOVERY!
HA HA! A RINGER!
OH!
AND IN ANOTHER MOMENT ... MISS AMERICA HAS HER PRISONER IN TOW AS THE POLICE ARRIVE!
TAKE THIS WOMAN INTO CUSTODY ON THE CHARGE OF ESPIONAGE, OFFICERS! THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL WANT HER FOR TRIAL!
SI, SIGNORA!
8

THINK BACK! THE STOLEN PROPERTY CAN SHATTER THE WORLD EVEN FASTER THAN ATOM BOMBS! WHO WENT TO THAT BOX?
SO MANY PEOPLE IN AND OUT, ALL DAY!
I REMEMBER! A STOUT, MIDDLE-AGED, BROWN-HAIRED WOMAN WITH A BLUE COAT!
THAT FITS MRS. ILES TO A "T"! HMM, SHE PROBABLY CAME IN A CAB! I'LL CHECK ON IT!
SNAP!
SEVERAL INQUIRIES AT HACKSTANDS, AND THEN...
SIGNORA WITH THE BLUE COAT? I DROVE HER AND A MAN FROM THE NACIONALIO ABOUT EIGHT MILES OUT — THE BERNADINO ROAD! THEY GOT OUT THERE. I THOUGHT THAT VERY STRANGE!
THEY DIDN'T WANT THEIR EXACT DESTINATION KNOWN!
MISS AMERICA QUICKLY TAKES TO THE AIR!
I'LL HEAD RIGHT OUT THERE AND HAVE A LOOK!
SHARP EYES SEARCHING, REVEAL...
THERE'S A VERY SECLUDED OLD HOUSE. HMMM! THOSE MEN DOWN THERE! THEY LOOK LIKE THE ILES' HENCHMEN! YES, THIS IS THE PLACE, ALL RIGHT!
WHILE INSIDE THE TREE-SHROUDED HOUSE...
---YES, THE FORMULA IS GENUINE. MY EXPERTS HAVE CHECKED ON THE MICROFILM! LET US NOW CONCLUDE THIS TRANSACTION!
1 250,000, MR. "M"!

HERE YOU ARE! IT'S ALL IN NEGOTIABLE BONDS, SECURITIES AND CASH. NOW GO QUICKLY AND FORGET ME, EVEN AS "MR. M". I WISH TO KEEP MY IDENTITY A SECRET!


SUDDENLY!
WHY SO SECRET? LET'S GET ACQUAINTED! STICK AROUND, YOU TWO! I'VE ALREADY TIED UP YOUR TWO THUGS OUTSIDE!

YOU! WE'LL STOP YOU!
WELL, WELL, A GOOSE-STEPPING ARMY!

...WITH A COOKED GOOSE!

BUT!
I'M STILL TO BE RECKONED WITH, MISS AMERICA! WE SPOTTED YOUR EVERY MOVE FROM THE CASA DE LUTRIO! I KNEW YOU WOULD LEAD US TO THE RIGHT PLACE!

AHHH! THE MICROFILM! MINE, AT LAST! AND NO ONE WILL TRY TO TAKE IT NOW! YOU MEN, SHOOT THESE PEOPLE BEFORE THEY REVIVE!
OKAY, BOSS!
5

AS THE EXECUTIONERS RAISE DEADLY WEAPONS, THEY ARE MYSTERIOUSLY SHOT DOWN!

NEXT MOMENT, MISS AMERICA RECOVERS FROM THE CRASHING BLOW, TO SEE...

BANNING! OUNTERSPIES! HOW DID YOU...?

WE'LL EXPLAIN LATER! YOU'VE DONE A GREAT JOB, MISS AMERICA!

IN THE MELEE OF THE ROUND-UP...

OHH, THE BIG MYSTERY FISH IS RUNNING OUT OF THE NET! CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!

THE SINISTER MR. "M" RACES TOWARD A MONOPLANE. WHEN...

...TWO PAIRS OF HANDS, WITH A SINGLE THOUGHT OF CAPTURE!

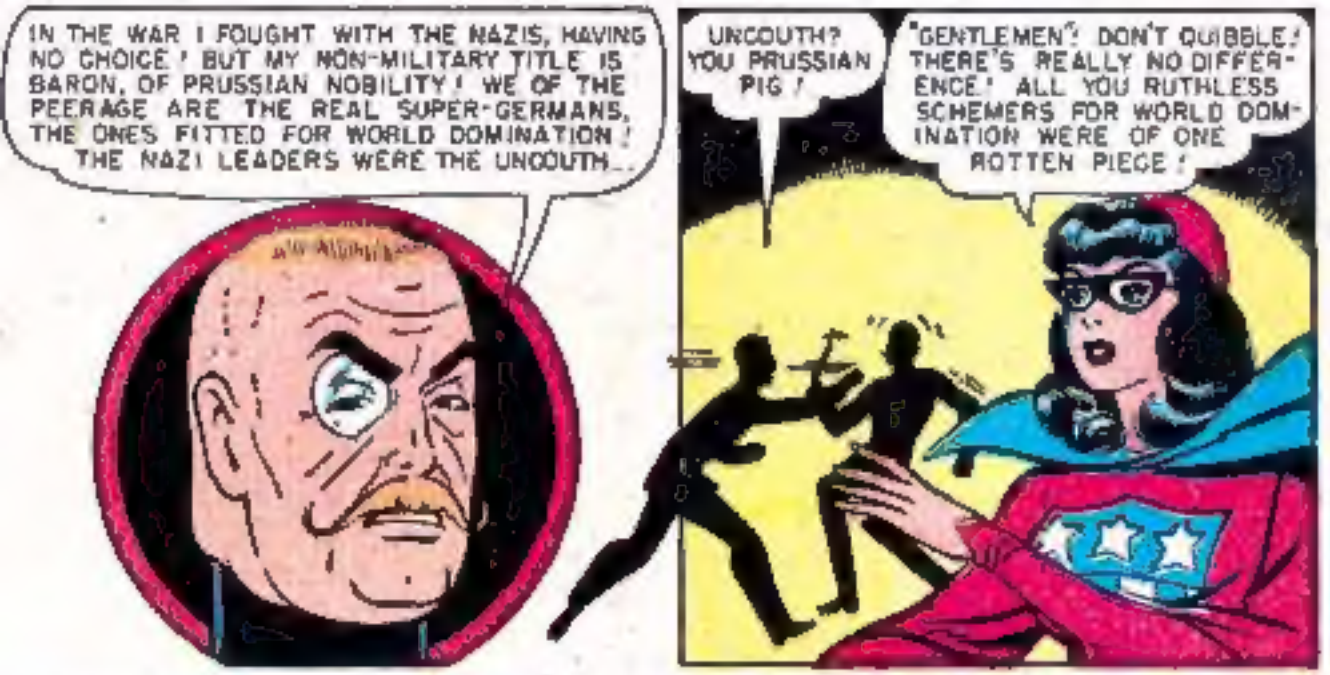
PETER! THEN YOU HURLED THE OTHER DRUM!

RIGHT! THE MOMENT I SAW HIM I RECOGNIZED THE MURDERER OF MY SISTER AND PARENTS! THE NAZI BUTCHER, GENERAL KESSELWOLFE!

IN A SHORT TIME...

NOW THAT YOU ARE ALL ROUNDED UP, HOW COME YOU TWO NAZIS OPPOSED EACH OTHER IN YOUR ATTEMPT TO GET THE MICROFILM?

BECAUSE I AM NO NAZI!


IN THE WAR I FOUGHT WITH THE NAZIS, HAVING NO CHOICE! BUT MY NON-MILITARY TITLE IS BARON, OF PRUSSIAN NOBILITY! WE OF THE PEERAGE ARE THE REAL SUPER-GERMANS, THE ONES FITTED FOR WORLD DOMINATION! THE NAZI LEADERS WERE THE UNCOUTH...
UNCOUTH? YOU PRUSSIAN PIG!
"GENTLEMEN"! DON'T QUIBBLE! THERE'S REALLY NO DIFFERENCE! ALL YOU RUTHLESS SCHEMERS FOR WORLD DOMINATION WERE OF ONE ROTTEN PIECE!

WHEN, SOMETIME LATER, MISS AMERICA RETURNS TO COUNTERSPY HEADQUARTERS...
YOU DID A MAGNIFICENT JOB, WHAT WITH BANNING SAFE, THE DREADED MICROFILM SAFE IN OUR HANDS, AS WELL AS THE EXPOSE LIST OF ESCAPED NAZI AGENTS! IN ROUNDING THEM UP, ONE OF THEM TURNED OUT TO BE HANS LUDWIG, NAZI CREATOR OF THE SUN-RAY CONDENSER. LUDWIG'S BEEN LIVING IN NEW YORK AS A REFUGEE. HE GOT THE MICROFILM TO MRS. VARNHAM, WHO PROMISED TO GET IT TO THE NAZI BUNCH! INSTEAD, SHE PLANNED TO SELL IT TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER!
CUT-THROATS, ALL OF THEM! BUT, CHIEF, HOW DID YOUR MEN GET ON MY TRAIL, COMING TO KESSELWOLFE'S?

BY YOUR CABLE TO PICK UP MRS. VARNHAM! WE KNEW YOU'D PICKED UP SOMETHING HOT, SO BANNING HAD THE BOYS IN BUENOS AIRES CHECKING HOTELS FOR MRS. VARNHAM. BUT THEY RAN INTO PETER, OR RATHER LOUIS REMIENS, WHO TIPPED US OFF TO THE NACIONALIO! YOU KNOW THE REST!
I SEE! AND, CHIEF, THE MICROFILM?
7

WE'VE LOCKED THE MICROFILM AWAY, FOR KEEPS, WE HOPE!
SO DO I, BECAUSE WORLD PEACE FOR GOOD AND ALL IS WHAT WE MUST HAVE, OR CIVILIZATION WILL BE COMPLETELY DESTROYED! AND, CHIEF, WHO WANTS TO START ALL OVER AGAIN LIKE ADAM!
THE END

MARVEL
MYSTERY COMICS
10¢
NO. 85
WE'VE GOT THE GOODS ON YOU NOW, CLEOPATRA!
LIQUID ASBESTOS
I DIDN'T DO IT, I TELL YOU!!! I DIDN'T DO IT!
THE TORCH IS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHO HUNG NATHAN HALE! BUT THE TORCH AIN'T GONNA TELL ANYONE! PUSH 'IM IN!
IF ONLY TORO WILL BE IN TIME!
SUSPENSE AND DANGER FOLLOW THE TORCH AND TORO AS THEY TACKLE THE CASE OF THE "MURDERS FROM THE PAST!"